under medical and insurance schemes on the pattern of organised sector include nature of work, absence of employer-employee relationship, migratory nature of such labour, etc. However, concerted efforts have been made by the Government from time to time to extend insurance and other facilities to the workers within the unorganised sector through legislative measures and programmes by following segmental approach such as setting up of welfare funds for beedi, cine and mine workers, Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana-2001 for landless agricultural labour, 'Janshree Bima Yojana' of LIC for persons below and marginally above poverty line.

Opposition to amendment of labour laws

1264. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre of Indian Trade Union alongwith other major Central Trade Unions have opposed the proposed amendments to labour laws;

(b) if so, whether the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister has proposed many changes in the labour laws to the Union Government;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government have considered these suggestions made by the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister in labour laws; and

(d) by when a final decision, in this regard, is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) The Central Trade Union Organisations have been generally opposing amendments in labour laws unless these are perceived as beneficial to the working class.

(b) to (d) The Central Government have received some amendment proposals relating to Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 and the Factories Act, 1948 from Government of Andhra Pradesh. The Government has already initiated the process of carrying out labour reforms through amendments of certain important labour Acts including Industrial Disputes Act and the Factories Act. Given the

procedural requirements involved, it is not possible to indicate any fixed time-frame for these amendments.

Cheating in the name of jobs abroad

†1265. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a gang involved in cheating people in the name of providing jobs abroad has come to light;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any action against the said gang; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) The Government do not have any specific information about any gang involved in cheating people in the name of providing jobs abroad. However, sporadic complaints against unregistered agents/individuals are received in this regard. As and when such complaints are received, show-cause notices are issued and complaints are lodged with the local police authorities for taking action against the unscrupulous agents/individuals. The State Governments/Union Territories have been requested to issue guidelines right down to the police station level to maintain strict vigil against nefarious activities of unscrupulous agents. In case of complaints against Registered Recruiting Agents, show-cause notices are issued to the Agents and in case the reply is not found covincing, the licence of the Recruiting Agent is Suspended/Cancelled.

Increase in Unemployment

1266. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the increase in the number of unemployed persons during the year 2000-2001 in comparison to 1999 and the details of skilled,

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.